

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions:

1. (Currently Amended) A tampon comprising an absorbent material and a composition disposed in said absorbent material, the composition having:

at least one antibacterial agent in an amount of ~~about 0.01 wt.% to about 5 wt.%~~ about 0.10 wt% to about 2.5 wt% of the total weight of the tampon, wherein said at least one antibacterial agent comprises a mixture of alkyl dimethyl benzylammonium chloride and alkyl dimethyl ethylbenzylammonium chloride; and

at least one finishing agent in an amount of ~~about 0.01 wt.% to about 10 wt.%~~ 2.5 wt% of the total weight of the tampon, wherein said at least one finishing agent comprises one or more polyoxyethylene fatty acid esters,

wherein thesaid composition has synergistic antibacterial properties effective to neutralize the production of TSST-1 toxin and reduce Staphylococcus aureus bacteria growth.

2 - 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The tampon of claim 61, wherein said at least one antibacterial agent is one or more quaternary ammonium compounds are present in an amount of about 1.0 wt.% based on the total weight of the tampon.

8 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The tampon of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises one or more additional components selected from the group

consisting of: preservative, deodorant, fragrance, malodor counteractant material, humectant, and any combinations thereof.

20. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting the production of TSST-1 toxin by exposing TSST-1 toxin-producing *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria to a tampon, the tampon having an absorbent material and a composition, the composition comprising:

at least one antibacterial agent in an amount of about 0.10 wt% to about 2.5 wt% ~~about 0.01 wt.% to about 5 wt.%~~ of the total weight of the tampon, wherein said at least one antibacterial agent comprises a mixture of alkyl dimethyl benzylammonium chloride and alkyl dimethyl ethylbenzylammonium chloride; and

at least one finishing agent in an amount of about 2.5 wt% 0.01 wt.% to about 5 wt.% of the total weight of the tampon, wherein said at least one finishing agent comprises one or more polyoxyethylene fatty acid esters;

wherein the said composition has synergistic antibacterial properties effective to neutralize the production of TSST-1 toxin and reduce *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria growth.

21 - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2520, wherein said at least one antibacterial agent is one or more quaternary ammonium compounds are present in an amount of about 1.0 wt.% based on the total weight of the tampon.

28 - 37. (Canceled).

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises one or more additional components selected from the group consisting of: preservative, deodorant, fragrance, malodor counteractant material, humectant, and any combinations thereof.